

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on March 22, 2005. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 9-16 and 21-28 are currently pending in this application, with claims 4, 9, 13 and 21 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Allowable subject matter

Appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 4 and 9-16 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been placed into independent form.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,437,972 to Sellers.

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this objection and to advance prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 1-3 and 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

Claims 22-28 are dependent upon claim 21. Claim 21 is drawn to a pushbutton switch device comprising:

a key pad having a plurality of resin key tops arranged on a translucent key sheet; and

a circuit board which is arranged below the key pad and on which a circuit component serving as an illumination source is mounted, the circuit component protruding from a surface of the circuit board,

the resin key tops being pressed toward the circuit board to effect an input operation with the resin key tops,

wherein the circuit component is being caused to emit light to illuminate the resin key tops,

wherein a resin key top of the resin key tops has a flange portion, the flange portion outwardly protruding from a lower end side surface of the resin key top, and

wherein the flange portion has a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin key tops, the clearance portion exposing a portion of the circuit component.

Within the claims, the flange portion has a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin key tops, the clearance portion exposing a portion of the circuit component.

The Office Action admits that the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art fails to explicitly disclose flange portions with a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin keys (Office Action at page 2). The Office Action attempts to apply Sellers for the features admittedly deficient from within the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Sellers arguably teaches a keyboard with interior stiffening ribs having key members 32, base plate 44, rib 52 and clearance notches 58 (Sellers at figure 2). Nevertheless, Sellers fails to disclose, teach or suggest the clearance notches 58 as exposing the rib 52.

Furthermore, Sellers fails to disclose, teach or suggest a circuit board which is arranged below the key pad and on which a circuit component serving as an illumination source is mounted, the circuit component protruding from a surface of the circuit board.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion



For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Dated: June 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  

David T. Nikaido

Registration No.: 22,663

Brian K. Dutton

Registration No.: 47,255

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W.

Suite 501

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 955-3750

Attorneys for Applicant